

28

# *Black Frog*



BLACK FROG is a Diplomacy Zine that emphasizes that Postal Diplomacy is fun to play! The publisher is John H. 'Jack' Masters, 25711 North Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. Telephone (805) 259-2811.

Subscriptions to BF are \$12.00 per year or for 24 issues, whichever comes last. This rate is good only until January 1st, 1981.

Diplomacy is a multi-player war game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and currently owned by Avalon Hill Company.

At present there is one game opening in BF (see below); any subber or prospective subber that wants to play in this game please let me know as soon as possible. Three slots are already filled in it. There is no game fee in addition to holding a subscription to BF.

#### DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT IN SACRAMENTO

February 14th and 15th the Royal Game Store in Sacramento is sponsoring a DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT with prizes ranging from \$5.00 to \$100.00. The tournament will consist of three rounds of play; each round not to exceed six hours. Registration is by mail (to be received no later than Monday, February 9th) for \$4.00; or you can register at the door for \$6.00. For more information contact Clark Reynolds at 6731 - 37th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95824. (Home: ((916)) 383-6030, or Office ((916)) 322-9888).

The group in Sacramento is trying to establish this as a semi-annual tournament that would draw attendees from the West Coast. I think it is a real good idea and I would like to see the hobby give it a lot of support. I missed the first of these, which was held last August. The timing for that one was bad for me as it came right inbetween GlasCon and PacifiCon and just a weekend away from Mike Hartman's Shortley-Con. But this time, I expect to be up there. Anybody from southern California want to get together and carpool? Let me know if you do.

Some time ago Don Norton announced that he was winding up his long enduring zine "Claw and Fang" with issue #124. He will get to issue #124 in March of 1981. By now some of you have probably guessed that I have decided that this was a pretty good idea. I will end Black Frog with issue #124, just like Norton, only I am hurrying mine out in order to get to the coveted #124 before Don does.

In regard to Black Frog issue #24. Everybody who has guessed as to what it was has guessed right so far. With very few exceptions, everybody who thinks that they did not get a copy is wrong. They have merely failed to recognize it for what it is!

Several persons have written and asked about getting copies of BF #1-7. The first six issues of Black Frog (and the first five of them were not named) were for the sole purpose of completing the orphaned game 1977HG. There were less than 10 copies of all of these printed. BF #7 went a bit further. In addition to carrying the final season of 1977HG, it made the announcement that the zine would be expanding a starting some new games. In all about 30 copies of this went out. As many of you know, it was my original intention to limit BF subscriptions to 30. I still do have the originals for these seven issues. If any subber, knowing what they are, still wants them--I would be willing to Xerox them off and send the whole batch out for \$1.00.

JIMMU is dead! Only one reader expressed an interest in playing in this variant game. The offer to run it is cancelled. Mike Mills (Mhain Macha) is still trying to fill a game in his zine. Keith Mercer, Dan Palter and the Ole' Black Frog himself are signed up. If you are interested in this game, write to Mills at 1585 Quaker Road, Macedon, NY 14502. Jimmu is a six player game set in Japan. With fewer supply centers and only six players, it is a bit simpler game than ordinary Diplomacy. Which to my mind makes for a better variant. Map and rules are available (for a charge) from Mills.

With the cancellation of JIMMU, there will be one more opening in regular Diplomacy in Black Frog. If you want in, let me know right away.

SOLID

# DEATH

F'02

Does Cusack FMR on purpose because he knows the Apple can play it better???

Italy off to a very good start!

AUSTRIA	(Cusack)	FMR! Neutral moves by Apple Computer. A Bud-SER; <u>A GAL-Bud</u> ; F Tri(h)/dislodged must retreat to Alb or Adr or OTB.
ENGLAND	(Grabar)	F NTH-Den; F LOW-Nth; A WNL-Lon; F IPL-Iri.
FRANCE	(Guajardo)	F Eng-Irl; F MAO(s)F Eng-Irl; A BEL(h); A PIC(s)A Bel; A Spa(h).
GERMANY	(Mercer)	F HFL-Nth; F DAN(s)F Hel-Nth; A KIE(s)F Den; A Mun-SIL; A PRU(s)A Mun-Sil.
ITALY	(Schiwartz)	A Ven-TRI; A Tyr(s)A Ven-Tri; F Ion-TUN; F GRE(h).
RUSSIA	(Shufeldt)	F SWE-Den; <u>A RNE-Bud</u> ; A WAR(h); F SEV(h); A MOS(s)F Sev.
TURKEY	(Mooney)	A EAS-Rum; A ATM(s) A Con-Sev; F BLA(c)A Con-Sev; <u>A COU-Sev</u> .

## 1902 Supply Center Chart:

AUSTRIA:	fff. Bud, Vie, SER (3) .....	even 0 .....
	(unless F Tri reteat OTB .....than .....)	build 1 .....
ENGLAND:	Home, Hwy (4).....	even 0 .....
FRANCE:	Home, Bel, Por, SPA (6).....	build 1 .....
GERMANY:	Home, Hol, Den (5) .....	even 0 .....
ITALY:	Home, Gre, TRI, TUN (6) .....	build 2 .....
RUSSIA:	Home, Rum, SWE (6) .....	build 1 .....
TURKEY:	Home, Bul (4) .....	even 0 .....
NEUTRAL:	PLL, TAN, SPA, Spt (0).....	OUT ....

Winter 1902 orders will be due on January 6th, 1981 at 12:00 noon PST. Spring 1903 orders will then be due on January 22nd, 1981. The seasons are extended out a bit so that you may enjoy a Merry Christmas without having to worry about this game for a few days.

NOTE: Blair Cusack is still the player of record for Austria. The Apple computer will, if necessary, submit neutral orders for him for one more season (which will not count the possible winter adjustments). Per the BF houserules, if he does not pick up the position by this time, Austria will go into CD.

## Press:

LONDON: Oh dear! I guess I am dead. What shall I do? What shall I do?

BLACK JACK: I don't know Gruesome, but if you can't improve your game position you might try working on your press.

BERLIN to VIENNA & ANKARA: If the two of you would be interested in aid against the Ruekie get in contact with me at once.

BERLIN to MOSCOW: Only kidding!

BERLIN to LONDON: It is with a sad heart that I must move against you. You do believe that don't you?

BERLIN TIMES: The Kaiser today announced that he will be ordering English ships destroyed in all German controlled harbors over Christmas. He stated this in the news studios of KICK TV. We have no idea what TV means since this is a top secret military installation of the Kaisers.

*80hr*

# WAR

*S'03*

Will AUSTRIA and will ENGLAND survive 1903??? Not very likely!!

AUSTRIA	(Schaller)	<u>A BOH-Vie</u> ; <u>A TRI-Bud</u> ; <u>A Ser(s)A Tri-Bud/d</u> , retreat Alb or OTB.
ENGLAND	(Perlmutter)	<u>A Nwy-FIN</u> ; <u>F Bar-NWN</u> ; <u>F Nwn-NAT</u> ; <u>F LON-Wal</u> .
FRANCE	(Carson)	<u>A Wal-LPL</u> ; <u>F IRI-Wal</u> ; <u>F ENG-Lon</u> ; <u>A BUR(h)</u> ; <u>A SPA(h)</u> ; <u>F Ere-MAO</u> .
GERMANY	(Carter)	<u>F NTH(c)</u> <u>A Den-Edi</u> ; <u>A Den-EDI</u> ; <u>F HEL(s) F Nth</u> ; <u>A Hol-KIE</u> ; <u>A MUN(h)</u> .
ITALY	(Hanson)	<u>F Ion-ADR</u> ; <u>A ROM-Ven</u> ; <u>A VEN-Tri</u> ; <u>A VIE(s) A Ven-Tri</u> ; <u>A APU(s)A Rom-Ven</u> .
RUSSIA	(Tilley)	<u>F Rum-RLA</u> ; <u>A GAL-Bud</u> ; <u>A Ukr-RUM</u> ; <u>A SEV(s)A Ukr-Rum</u> ; <u>F Swe-NWY</u> ; <u>A STP(s)F Swe-Nwy</u> .
TURKEY	(Burnett)	<u>A Ank-CON</u> ; <u>F Bla-ANK</u> ; <u>A Gre-SER</u> ; <u>A BUL(s)A Gre-Ser</u> ; <u>F Aeg-GRE</u> .

Fall 1903 orders will be due on January 22nd, 1981 at 12:00 noon PST. This is about ten days longer than the normal span between seasons. Take a few days off from Diplomacy and have a Merry Christmas!

**Press:**

BLACK JACK to BURNETT: In answer to your question: Only if the attack is supported. By the way, I did check your F'02 orders for conditional builds, there were none.

ENGLAND: Help! Help! Will puppet to anyone who writes me. ANYONE! Help!

ENGLAND to AUSTRIA: Vern, I bet I am out faster than you are.

JIMMY THE GREEK to PEAKL: I'll take that bet! I am giving 3-5 that you both go out together in F'03.

BLACK JACK to DAVEY WHITESHOES: Fear not, I will publish your pictures from Origins, but not until January!

BERLIN to LONDON: No, my arms aren't broken. Are you serious? I wrote to you on August 25th and since I don't feel like writing again I'll just send you a carbon copy of the original. It might be a little out of date now.

BLACK JACK to ITALY: Actually I lived in Hudson, Wisconsin most of my time up there. Worked for 3M Company in St. Paul as a chemist. I'd like to come back up and do some canoeing, but no thanks I don't want any more Minnesota winters. Did you see where Jennifer King is picking the Vikings to win the Super Bowl?

MERION to SAN ANDREAS FAULT: Ready, set, go! //That is the faultiest press you have ever written Peakl; BJ//

THE OTHER 49 STATES: Ding, dong, the fruitstate is dead. Yeh!

YORKSHIRE: You know it say's something about me that all my neighbors attack me for no reason. So I never answer any letters. So I attack everybody in the press. So, I requested that the I.R.S. audit France. Are those any reasons to attack me? Don't answer that.

BLACK JACK to PEAKL: Actually I think they are all attacking you because Konrad Baumeister wanted it that way.

LONDON to PARIS: Liar, liar, pants on fire!

**80kj**

**V.I.P.**

**S'01**

**Every single order succeeds as rumors of war sweep across Europe!!!**

AUSTRIA	(Olsen)	F Tri-ALB; A Bud-SER; A Vie-TRI.
ENGLAND	(Sampson)	F Phi-NWN; F Lon-NTH; A Lpl-EDL.
FRANCE	(Brown)	A Par-CAS; A Mar-SPA; F Bre-ENG.
GERMANY	(Pilant)	F Kie-HOL; A Mun-RUH; A Ber-KIE.
ITALY	(Mainardi)	A VEN(h); A Rom-APU; F Nap-ION.
RUSSIA	(Wells)	F StP(sc)-COR; A Mos-STP; A War-UKR; F Sev-BLA.
TURKEY	(Arnett)	F Ank-CON; A Con-BUL; A Smy-ARM.

Fall 1901 orders will be due on January 22nd, 1901 at 12:00 noon PST. This is about 10 days longer than the normal span between seasons. The extra period is thrown in because of the Christmas season.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Dave Pilant, 112 Olympic, Moore, OK 73160.

**Press:**

**MOSCOW to VALENCIA:**

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT

WHEREAS the individual referred to as "Black Jack" conferred the title of "Mr. Pacificon" upon me without my knowledge and consent, and

WHEREAS I find the conferring of this title upon me to be effacious and an abrogation of faith, let it be

RESOLVED that I, Tsar Allenyi, have taken upon myself the title of my youth, "Frog-Killer".

**LONDON:** On behalf of the English Empire, King Sampson extends seasons greetings and glad tidings to all of his fellow crowned heads in Europe.

**VALENCIA:** Do those glad tidings also extend to that French fleet in the Channel?

**MEMPHIS to BLACK JACK:** Except for Olsen, I would have been in this game. But V.I.P. isn't big enough for both of us!

**BUDAPEST to BLACK JACK:** I'm most disappointed that you chose to call this game "V.I.P." For one thing, Arnett is going to feel left out. For another, you had a great chance to fill out the roster with the Fifth Horseman. The sequence should have gone: War; Famine; Pestilence; Death; Masters.

**AUSTRIA to GARY COUCHMAN:** No, no, Jack, I was just teaming. No, really, Jack. Please, Jack, stop crying like that.

**80hu**

**Pestilence**

**F'02**

**Mad dentist in Austria nukes all non-Austrian supply centers!!!**

Summer 1902    FRANCE (Gallagher)    A Mun retreat to BOH.

AUSTRIA	(Giddings)	<u>F ALB-Gre; A Ser(s)F Alb-Gre/d, annihilated; A BUD-Vie;</u> <u>Nuke Silo Vie-All non-Austrian SC's/illegal, not enough</u> <u>warheads!</u>
ENGLAND	(Townsend)	F Nwy-SWE; F SKA(s)F Nwy-Swe; F NTH(c)A Yor-Nwy; <u>A YOR-Nwy.</u>
FRANCE	(Gallagher)	A Bre-PIC; A PAR(s)A Bre-Pic; <u>A BOH-Mun;</u> A BUR(s)A Boh-Mun; A MAR(h); F Spa(sc)-WES.
GERMANY	(Rodriguez)	<u>A MUN(s)A Kie;</u> A KIE(s)A Mun; A BEL(s)A Kie; F HEL(s)A Kie.
ITALY	(Schwartz)	A Bul-SER; A TRI(s)A Bul-Ser; <u>F AEG-Gre;</u> <u>F ION(s) F Aeg-Gre;</u> A Pie-TYR.
RUSSIA	(Conner)	F RUM(s) Turkish-A Gre-Bul; <u>A GAL-Vie;</u> A Sil-BER; F BAL(s)A Sil-Ber; <u>A FIN-Swe;</u> <u>A STP-Nwy.</u>
TURKEY	(Hartman)	A Gre-BUL; F CON(s) A Gre-Bul; A SMY(s)F Con; <u>F EAS-Ion.</u>

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NOTE: Between December 20th and January 2nd, Joe Gallagher (France) can be reached at 7808 New Street, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

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Press:

PARIS to ANKARA: On second thought it seems like one hell of a good idea.

PARIS to MOSCOW: Beware of German treachery.

VALENCIA to PARIS: I think it is the Russian that is treacherous. Rodriguez is more lecherous than treacherous.

CONSTANTINOPLE to ROME: I thought Calhamer created a game which required one to co-operate with someone!

TUNIS to GREECE: Free us from the threat of Italian domination, cooperate with the Austrian fleet to save us.

SYRIA to MOSCOW: Are you really serious about Denmark, Norway, Sweden and points west? Thanks for the lack of help with those Austrian yo-yo's.

VALENCIA to SYRIA: He wanted to help against the Austrian yo-yo, but he's having this problem with his wisdom teeth.

VALENCIA to LONDON: Don't you wish you had of stuck with your first set of orders?

AUSTRIA to ALL NON-AUSTRIAN SC'S: Goodbyes cruel world.

VALENCIA to AUSTRIA: Your nukes didn't work. Sorry about that. Why don't you try nitrous oxide next time?

IRELAND to BERLIN: Continued threats to the obvious and natural English control of Denmark will bring you to an even more rapid demise. //The Russian threat to Berlin seemed to be his bigger problem. There must be something rotten in Denmark as nobody wants it.

PARIS to LONDON: Slow and steady may not always be good enough. Tit for tat may not lead to success either.

BULGARIA to BALKANS: //Since this press originated from a player other than the Turkish or Italian, it is black press and not allowed under the houserules. I am leaving it in this time, but be careful in the future. JM// Rise up and crush the Italian presence on our homeland. Friends of Bulgaria drive these outsiders into the Sea.

BLACK JACK to PESTILENCE: Hey, this game is real fun to adjudicate. Keep up the good work fellows and don't any of you spoil it for me by forming an alliance with one of your fellow players!

PESTILENCE, 1902 supply center chart:

AUSTRIA:	Vie, Bud, Gre (3) ... 1 annihilated .....	build 1 ..
ENGLAND:	Hono, Nwy, SWE (5) .....	build 1 ..
FRANCE:	Hono, Spa, Por, <del>Mad</del> (5) .....	burn 1 ..
GERMANY:	Kie, Bel, Hol, MUN, <del>Ber</del> (4) .....	even 0 ..
ITALY:	Hono, Ser, Tri (5) .....	even 0 ..
RUSSIA:	Hono, Rum, <del>Rus</del> , BER (6) .....	even 0 ..
TURKEY:	Hono, Bul (4) .....	even 0 ..
NEUTRAL:	DEI, TUN (2) .....	even 0 ..

80hs

# Famine

S'03

French convoy reaches London; only Austria claims to be a friend of England.

AUSTRIA (Lew)	A Bud-CAL; A VIE(s)A Bud-Cal; F GRE-Bul(sc); F Tri-ALB; A Ser-Rum//no such unit//.
ENGLAND (Colombo)	F IRI(e)F Nth-Eng; F NTH-Eng; F Nwn-NAT.
FRANCE (Albrecht)	F MAO-Iri; A Bel-LON; F ENG(o)A Bel-Lon; F BRE(s) F Engs; A EUR(h); A GAS(s)A Par.
GERMANY (Kuszynski)	A MUN(s)A Ruh; A RUM(s)A Mun; A HOL(s)A Ruh; F KIE(s)A Hol; F NWY(s) Russian F Bar-Nwn.
ITALY (de Vries)	NMR! Neutral moves by Apple Computer: A TUN(h); A Tyr-VFN; F AEG(s) F Eas; F EAS(s) F Aeg.
RUSSIA (King)	F Bar-NWN; F SWE(s) German F Nwy; A RUM(s) Turkish A Bul-Ser; A Gal-BOH; F SEV-Bla; A UKR-Cal.
TURKEY (Hart)	A Bul-SER; F KLA-Bul(sc); A SMY(h); F CON(s)A Smy.

Fall 1903 orders will be due on January 22nd, 1981 at 12:00 noon PST. The extra time, about ten days, between seasons this time is because of the Christmas season. Have a Merry Chrietmas and a happy New Year.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Steve Colombo, 129 Woodward Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 3T6.

Press:

LONDON: Damn right England has no friends! It is time for drastic measures. I am forced to confess that my uncle is Kenneth Taylor of ex-ambassador fame. Now I know Americans are extremely generous people, and I expect to see some changes in the next game year.

AUSTRIA: I like England!

BUDAPEST to CONSTANTINOPLE: Who who says says I I practice practice double double speak speak?

BUDAPEST: Kaboom!

MOSCOW to AUSTRIA: Yes alliances have shifted in the Balkans. //I knew it all along--BJ//

MOSCOW to ITALY: Unless the Pope makes some great changes.

A BIT OF HISTORY: Bulgaria is so named because it was when the Romans took it that they first noticed the Turk's manners. Since the Turks inhabited Bulgaria at the time, the Romans named it after them. Land of the vulgar people, or "Vulgaria". Later the V became a B.

## THE SAD CAP PLIGHT OF A DIPLOMACY PLAYER'S BEST FRIEND

by COL. JAMES V. LIPSCOMB

It seems that recently there was an article by a "Diplomacy Widow" in what you chaps refer to as one of your "zines". I would like to relate to you an equally, if different, hideous situation I now find myself in: "Best friend of a Diplomacy player".

At one time, Dr. Alfred Giddings and I did many things together. We practiced karate, we lifted weights, we jogged. Often we took trips together or just sat around leisurely gulping Old Ruehmlle and listening to Leon Redbone, Gene Autry or Tommy Dorsey.

I recall one Christmas, several years ago, arriving at his apartment to find he had received a "Kriegspiel" game as a gift.

"Would you like to play?" Al politely asked.

"Hell no." I politely answered. "I hate games."

Luckily, he could find no one who would engage in this fascist-sounding activity with him and the box was soon tucked under his underwear in a drawer where it belonged. "Panzerblitz" soon followed and met a similar, just demise.

Before long, however, while drinking a small quart of akvavit after a very pleasant jog through the slums, I noticed a new box on his bookshelf. It had a nauseating color combination of turquoise and purple.

"What the hell, now?" I screamed.

"Nothing." He replied, quickly throwing his sweatshirt over the box.

"Another one of those games no one will play with you, huh? You fool." I cackled.

Well, I was wrong. Satan in a purple-turquoise box had arrived. He found plenty of willing and experienced players. The following Sunday afternoon, when we usually worked out, I heard strange noises as I started to knock on the door.

"Fleet Sevastopol to Black Sea."

"Fleet Kiel to Denmark."

"Army Rome to Apulia."

I started to back away from the door, fearing the KGB had taken over his apartment. Then, thinking he might be in trouble, I picked up a nearby brick. With visions of Dr. Giddings gagged, tied to a chair and being beaten by communists, I kicked in the door and screamed "Freeze, FBI!"

What did I see? Seven people huddled in pairs. In corners, under the table, and two pairs of feet sticking out from under the bed.

"Come on in," said Giddings, "But you'll have to be quiet."

I spent the rest of the afternoon watching in amazement as people sneaked off and told each other secrets and then accused each other of being liars. When the afternoon was over, I knew I had lost my best friend.

Well, over the years, I have watched him go from bad to worse. Once in excellent physical condition, he is now a nervous, whining little wimp.

"Let's go lift weights." I might suggest.

"Oh no! I can't. I think England and France have teamed up on me. I've got to write letters tonight."

"Well, then let's stop and have a couple of drinks after work."

"Can't! Have to keep a clear head for my international game. Those guys are killers. . ."

By that time I've shut him out; as has everyone else who used to be his friend, including his wife. My the misery he's put her through. Oh, I'm still invited over occasionally for taco salad and to watch Al Type. Last week I glanced through the

window to see the poor woman dancing with the broom. That night, as he pecked away at his little typewriter, coming up for air only long enough to gleefully explain how he was stabbing the Italian, she and I had a long talk about this unfortunate situation.

Goodbye, Al. The times we used to have will remain as fond memories. But by the time you read this in your "zine", your wife and I will be in Rio.

Col. James V. Lipscomb

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**Merry Pranksters International**

*before*  
Col. James V. Lipscomb R.A.F. (ret.)  
and

Dr. Alfred P. Giddings F.A.S.N.  
"Artisans of Liquid Foolishment"

Col. Lipscomb  
(405) 234-4183

Dr. Giddings  
(405) 237-7326

*after*  
**Merry Pranksters International**

Col. James V. Lipscomb R.A.F. (ret.)  
-end-

Dr. Alfred P. Giddings F.A.S.N.  
"Artisans of Liquid Foolishment"  
*After*

Dr. Giddings  
(405) 237-7326

Well Colonel, if I may suggest the sporting thing to do; why don't you keep her for the spring and summer only and give her back to Al for the Fall Season. -- Ed.

*May* you be blessed at Christmas  
with peace, comfort,  
a happy heart,  
and all the joys that are part  
of this beautiful season.

*Merry Christmas*

*Jack Masters  
& Family*